

MAR 27 2007

**REMARKS****Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0084528 published in the name of Chan et al. (hereinafter "Chan et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,641 issued to Viltro et al. (hereinafter "Viltro et al.") for the reasons of record stated on pages 2 - 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the basis that Chan et al is disqualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) as both Chan et al. and the instant application at the time the instant invention was made were subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization.

Claims 20 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Viltro et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,444 issued to Hortel et al. (hereinafter "Hortel et al.") for the reasons of record stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the basis that Chan et al. is disqualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) for the reasons indicated above.

Claims 20 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Viltro et al. and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0199265 published in the name of France et al. (hereinafter "France et al.") for the reasons of record stated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of Claims 20 - 21 on the basis that Chan et al. is disqualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) for the reasons indicated above. Furthermore, Applicants submit, that France et al. is disqualified as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) as both France et al. and the instant application at the time the instant invention was made were subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization.

Hence, as the rejection of Claims 1 – 18 and Claims 20 – 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now moot, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims.

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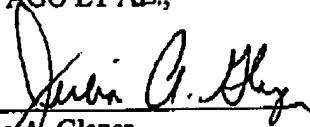
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SUMMARY

This is responsive to the Office Action December 27, 2006. As the rejection of Claims 1 - 18 and 20 - 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
FOR: VAGO ET AL.;

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